

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a lighting element provided with a light source, a light guiding plate having the light source provided at one of facets thereof and guiding light emitted from the light source ~~to and a reflector covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source,~~

~~wherein said light source emits the light from a light emission face; and~~

a reflector ~~for~~ covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source; ~~and~~

a housing ~~for~~ covering an edge portion of the light emission face of the lighting element, the facets and the rear face of the lighting element; ~~and wherein~~

a shield portion ~~for~~ shielding gaps which ~~formed~~ ~~are formed~~ between the housing and the lighting element and ~~extends~~ ~~extend~~ to the light emission face,

~~wherein said shield portion is provided between at least the rear face of the lighting element and the housing.~~

2. (Currently amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein

heat discharge holes ~~for~~ discharging heat generated in the ~~lighting~~ unit to the outside of the ~~lighting~~ unit are formed in a region of the housing,

~~wherein the region is located so as to correspond to the rear face of the lighting element.~~

3. (Currently amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein
the housing ~~has~~ comprises a frame portion which covers the edge portion of the light
emission face and the facets of the lighting element, and
a rear face supporting portion which covers the rear face of the lighting element and the
lower end portion of the frame portion.

4. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion is tabular
and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery
and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

5. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion has the
shape of a box and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an
inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.

6. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the shield portion is made
from a material having heat conductivity higher than that of the air.

7. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting
unit of claim 1 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face side of the lighting
unit.

8. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting
unit of claim 6 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face of the lighting unit.